

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INRE-00

INR-07 SSO-00 DHA-02 ACDA-10 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02

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O R 121509Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6095

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMZMBASSY GABORONE 1684

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 1989

USIA FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, ZA

SUBJ: JOSHUA NKOMO PRESS CONFERENCE - JULY 12

FOLLOWING IS A PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY JOSHUA NKOMO, PRESIDENT
OF ZAPU AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT ZIMBABWE HOUSE AT 1130 HRS.
LOCAL TIME TODAY, JULY 12.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS REGARDING REPORTED STATEMENTS
CONNECTED WITH THE PROGRESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
CONSULTATIVE TEAM LED BY JOHN GRAHAM RECENTLY IN SALISBURY.

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IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE TEAM STRUCK AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
RHODESIAN REGIME AMOUNTING TO THE SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM.
AMONG OTHER THINGS IT IS REPORTED THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR
A CONSTITUTION BASED ON ONE MAN ONE VOTE, A TRANSITION OF 3-6 MONTHS
UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THAT POSSIBLY
THERE WOULD BE A CEASE FIRE FOLLOWED BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE
GUERRILLA FORCES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY DURING

TRANSITION. TENDENTIOUS REPORTS BEAMED BY THE B.B.C. HAVE IMPLIED THAT OUR POSITION, THAT IS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, IS THAT POWER SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

I WOULD LIKE TO STATE CLEARLY THAT THE SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM MUST BE THE ELIMINATION OF THE CUASES OF THE WAR AND THIS CAN ONLY COME ABOUT THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FORCES LOCKED IN COMBAT. THIS MEANS THE P.F. ON THE ONE HAND, REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BEING THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. THE SOLUTION MUST BE THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THROUGH THEIR LIBERATION MOVEMENT, THE P.F. THE PRIORITY QUESTION FOR US, THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE , IS THE ELIMINATION OF THE CAUSES OF WAR.

THE FORMULATION OF A CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS LARGELY AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE, CAN ONLY FOLLOW AFTER THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE BEEN SATISFIED THAT THE POWER TO EFFECT THAT CONSTITUTION IS SECURELY AND IRREVERSSIBLY IN THEIR CONTROL. THE TRANSITIONAL STRUCTURE MUST REFLECT THIS NECESSITY. WE ARE NOT WAGING OUR LIBERATION WAR IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE BRITISH POWER IN ZIMBABWE. THE SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY IAN SMITH STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT THE SUPPOSED AGREEMENT IS RUBBISH AND UNACCEPTABLE SERVES TO STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION THAT THE CAUSES OF THE WAR, OF WHICH THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE RHODESIAN REGIMZ IS ONE, MUST BE ELIMINATED FIRST TO GUARANTEE THE ATMOSPHERE OF WORKING OUT THAT CONSTITUTION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SECONDLY ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMING FACE TO FACE WITH THE ACTUAL CONCRETE PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS LENDING OPPORTUNITY TO THE SELL-OUT SCHEME PLANNED BY SMITH, SITHOLE AND BISHOP MUZOREWA TO SET UP A PUPPET REGIME. HUNDREDS OF OUR ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND LOCKED UP IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SELL-OUT CAMPAIGNS OF THE PUPPET TRIO, SITHOLE, MUZOREWA AND CHIRAU. I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT NO AMOUNT OF ARRESTS WILL DESTROY OUR DETERMINATION TO DEFEAT THE RACIST REGIME OF RHODESIA THROUGH ARMED STRUGGLE.

THE INCREASE OF MERCENARIES ACCOUNTS FOR THE BRUTAL ATROCITIES NOW BEING PERPETRATED ON OUR PEOPLE. OUR STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE REGARDLESS UNTIL VICTORY.

AFTER READING THE ABOVE STATEMENT, MR. NKOMO MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

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NOW I SAID I WAS GOING TO SAY A FEW THINGS BEFORE YOU ASK ME
YOUR QUESTIONS. ONE OF THEM IS THIS: THAT WE HAVE MADE IT PERFECTLY
CLEAR TO THE BRITISH THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DISCUSS WITH
THEM, THE BRITISH, IF THEY WISH TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM, THEN THEY
MUST DISCUSS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT RELEVANT ISSUES THAT MUST
REMOVE THE CAUSES OF THE WAR BEFORE TALKING ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION.
AND THIS IS WHAT WE MEAN IN THIS STATEMENT THAT OUR PEOPLE MUST BE
ASSURED THAT POWER IS BEING TRANSFERRED, AND IS TRANSFERRED.
THIS MEANS THAT WE HAVE TO WORK OUT, THE PEOPLE LOCKED IN COMBAT
MUST WORK OUT, AND BE CERTAIN WHAT THE TRANSITIONAL POLITICAL
STRUCTURE WILL BE, AND THEN WHAT FORCE WILL BE USED. THIS CAN ONLY
BE DISCUSSED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE BRITISH. WE HAVE SAID,
WE HAVE OUR ARMY, AND OUR POLICE AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO LOOK
AFTER THAT. AND WE HAVE SAID WE WANT TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH
THE BRITISH. ONCE WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THIS ISSUE IS SETTLED
BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS, THE QUESTION OF THE CONSTITUTION COMES
AUTOMATICALLY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT APPEARS THAT AT LAST THE
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BRITISH HAVE ACCEPTED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR FOR YEARS,
THAT IS, ONE MAN-ONE VOTE. THEY HAVE SAID THEY ACCEPT IT. AND,
OF COURSE, WE ACCEPT IT, THEY CAN'T ASK US WHETHER WE ACCEPT BECAUSE

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR. THEY HAVE AT LAST ACCEPTED OUR POSITION.

THEN THE QUESTION OF THE JUDICIARY, AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, LE
HAVE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR, THAT THIS IS OUR INTENTION, BUT WITH THIS QUALIFICATION THAT WE CANNOT BE EXPECTED, WHEN WE TAKE THE STRUCTURE AS IT IS, FOR THE INTERIM OF THE JUDICIARY, AND THAT IT WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, THAT IS, FOR THIS PERIOD, OF COURSE IN THE CONSTITUTION IT WILL BE SPELLED OUT IN THE CONSTITUTION, THAT IT WILL BE SO. CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE JUDICIARY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN. THEY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN. INDIVIDUALS AS AGAINST THE STRUCTURE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. TO REMOVE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS FROM THE STRUCTURE, WHO HAVE ACTED POLITICALLY AGAINST OUR PEOPLE, AND YOU CALL THAT THAT AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, WHEN MEN LIKE DAVIS, LIKE MCDONALD HAVE BEEN ACTING POLITICALLY, AND PUSHING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE GALLOWS, WE ARE EXPECTED TO SWALLOW THAT TYPE OF THING. NO. THOSE MEN HAVE GOT TO GO, BUT THE JUDICIARY REMAINS.

THEN THERE IS THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR. IF PEOPLE FIGHT FOR ONE MAN-ONE VOTE, THEN IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR A FREE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION, AND ONCE WE HAVE SETTLED THE QUESTION OF THE INTERIM AND THE FORCES AND SO ON, AND THEN WE LOOK INTO THE CONSTITUTION, AND THEN WE LOOK INTO DELIMITATIONS AND SO ON AND SO FORTH - OF COURSE THERE MUST BE AN ELECTION BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND THIS IS WHERE ALL AND SUNDRY CAN COME IN, FOR ELECTIONS. ANY PARTY CAN COME IN AND STAND FOR ELECTIONS. ANY INDIVIDUAL, AS WHAT YOU CALL AN INDEPENDENT CAN DO SO, WE HAVE SAID THAT.
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THEN THE QUESTION OF BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROTECT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS; THIS GOES WITH OUR POLICY BECAUSE WE ARE NOT RACISTS. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A BILL OF RIGHTS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT ALL INDIVIDUALS IN ZIMBABWE WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE SHAPE OF THEIR NOSES, TEXTURE OF THEIR HAIR, THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, THAT IS IRRELEVANT. WHAT IS RELEVANT IS THAT INDIVIDUALS AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS OF ZIMBABWE MUST BE PROTECTED EQUALLY, BUT WE AGREE SO. THE BRITISH SAY THEY HAVE SIMILAR THOUGHTS, SO WE AGREE. WHERE IS THE PROBLEM? THE PROBLEM IS IN THE INTERIM, THE FORCE. THAT'S THE THING WE WANT TO SETTLE WITH THE BRITISH FIRST, THAT'S OUR POSITION.

DURING THE Q & A PERIOD, MR. NKOMO IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION AS TO THE FUTURE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE SAID "I HAVE ASKED MR. JOHN GRAHAM TO REPORT BACK TO DR. OWEN THAT A FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND HIS SUBORDINATES AND OURSELVES TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO CLEAR THIS THING. I REPEAT, WHAT THE SHAPE OF THINGS

WILL BE AFTER THIS MEETING, I CANNOT SAY, BUT WE HAVE OUR POSITION
AND WE INTEND TO STAND BY THAT POSITION. BUT, OF COURSE WE ARE
PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. ITEM
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